



OSDBU Information Bulletin

Published by the Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) of the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters, Washington, D.C. June 2004, Number 1

MINORITY BUSINESSES AND ADVOCATES AWARDS CEREMONY

A DESCRIPTION

This is an annual ceremony in which NASA gives awards for the “**Minority Contractor of the Year**,” the “**Minority Subcontractor of the Year**” and the “**Woman Owned Business of the Year**.” It is held during *Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week*, a week set aside by President Ronald Reagan by Proclamation in 1982 to honor the contributions of minority entrepreneurs to the national economy.

Each of NASA’s ten (10) field centers may submit a nominee for each category. A Special Judges Panel that consists of engineers, scientists, and other program managers from the four NASA Mission Directorates which evaluate the candidates. The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) prepares a rating form for the judges, who review each candidate and assess points for the categories that are being evaluated. The points are added up by the OSDBU, and the winners are selected.

At the same time the OSDBU also selects winners for the competitive “NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal” for those NASA personnel who have excelled in facilitating the utilization of small disadvantaged business in each of the following categories: 1) **technical**; 2) **procurement**; and, 3) **small business**. In addition, performance awards are presented to those NASA field centers that met or surpassed the small business goals that it negotiated that year with headquarters. Also, “Special Recognition Awards” are conferred by the Assistant Administrator for Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization on three individuals, who, at his/her discretion, are deserving of such awards because of a special act or service in the small business field.

The head of NASA presents all awards at an annual ceremony at NASA Headquarters, which is broadcast on NASA Television. This award ceremony is preceded by a “**State of Small Business at NASA Address**,” also delivered by the NASA Administrator.

Nearly every part of the NASA family is involved in this exercise. Such visible participation by all those involved highlights to the rest of the agency and to the public

the importance that NASA places on the utilization of small, disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses in the performance of NASA's missions.